

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 8-9, 11-13, 15-16, 20-26, and 29-30. The claims are as follows.

1. (Previously presented) A method of allocating one or more resource units in a sequence of allocatable resource units, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying each said resource unit with a leading and a trailing identity separated by a first divider, whereby for a pair of adjacent resource units in said sequence, the trailing identifier of the earlier of said adjacent resource units is the leading identifier of the later of said adjacent resource units;

arranging said identifiers and dividers into a pool string corresponding to said sequence of resource units; and

identifying an allocated resource unit by changing said first divider into a second divider whereby an allocated resource unit is identified by said leading and trailing identifiers separated by said second divider.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the further step of:

identifying allocated successive resource units in said sequence by all the identifiers of said successive resource units being separated by said second identifiers.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

representing a request for an allocation of one or more resource units as a request string of identifiers, each leading and trailing identifier being separated by one of said first dividers;

comparing said request string with said pool string, and where a match is detected;
replacing the corresponding ones of said first dividers with said second dividers to
allocate said resource unit(s).

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

representing a request for a deallocation of one or more resource units as a request string
of identifiers, each leading and trailing identifier being separated by one of said second dividers;
comparing said request string with said pool string, and where a match is detected;
replacing the corresponding ones of said second dividers with said first dividers to
deallocate said resource unit(s).

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3 comprising the further steps of:

forming a pair of linked pool strings, one of said linked strings substantially comprising
said pool string and having a first plurality of identifiers and a second plurality of said first
dividers, and the other of said linked strings comprising a like second plurality of first dividers
interposed between a like second plurality of ersatz identifiers;

actioning a request for an allocation of said resource units having a pair of request criteria
by truncating said linked pool strings in accordance with one of said request criteria to form a
pair of equal length linked sub-pool strings, and by representing the other of said request criteria
as a request string of said ersatz identifiers separated by said first dividers;

comparing said request string having said ersatz identifiers with said sub-pool string
having said ersatz identifiers, and where a match is detected;

replacing the corresponding ones of said first dividers in both said linked substrings with said second divider to allocate said resource units.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said leading and trailing identifiers is different from the other identifiers.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said leading and trailing identifiers is the same.

8. (Currently amended l) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said resource units are selected from the ~~class~~ group consisting of resource units consisting of at least time periods available to book a room, time periods in a schedule, memory locations in a computer storage medium, and seats in an aircraft.

9. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said resource units are selected from the ~~class~~ group consisting of resource units consisting of time periods available to book a room, time periods in a schedule, memory locations in a computer storage medium, and seats in an aircraft.

10. (Original) Allocated resource unit(s), allocated from a sequence of allocatable resource units in accordance with the method as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Currently amended) Allocated resource unit(s) as claimed in claim 10 and selected from the class group consisting of resource units consisting of time periods available to book a room, time periods in a schedule, memory locations in a computer storage medium, and seats in an aircraft.

12. (Currently amended) Allocated resource unit(s) as claimed in claim 10 and selected from the class group consisting of resource units consisting of one of at least time periods available to book a room, time periods in a schedule, memory locations in a computer storage medium, and seats in an aircraft.

13. (Currently amended) A system for allocating one or more resource units in a sequence of allocatable resource units, said system comprising:

identifying means ~~to identify~~ for identifying each ~~said~~ resource unit of a sequence of allocatable resource units with a leading and a trailing identifier separated by a first divider, whereby for a pair of adjacent resource units in said sequence the trailing identifier of the earlier of said adjacent resource units is the leading identifier of the later of said adjacent resource units;

arranging means ~~to arrange~~ for arranging said identifiers and dividers into a pool string corresponding to said sequence of resource units; and

changing means ~~to change~~ for changing one or more of said first dividers into corresponding second dividers to thereby identify each allocated resource unit by said leading and trailing identifiers separated by said second divider.

14. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein said identifying means identifies allocated successive resource units in said sequence by all the identifiers of said successive resource units being separated by said second identifiers.

15. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 13 further comprising requesting means ~~which represents~~ for representing a request for an allocation of one or more resource units as a request string of identifiers, each leading and trailing identifier being separated by one of said first dividers; and

comparison means ~~connected with said requesting means and said changing means to compare~~ for comparing said request string with said pool string[[,]]; and ~~where a match is~~

~~detected causing said~~

changing means ~~to replace~~ for replacing the corresponding ones of said first dividers with said second dividers to allocate said resource unit(s), wherein said comparison means is connected with said requesting means and said changing means.

16. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 13 further comprising requesting means ~~which represents~~ for representing a request for a deallocation of one or more resource units as a request string of identifiers, each leading and trailing identifier being separated by one of said second dividers; and

comparison means ~~connected with said requesting means and said changing means to compare~~ for comparing said request string with said pool string[[,]]; and ~~where a match is detected causing said~~

changing means ~~to replace~~ for replacing the corresponding ones of said second dividers with said first dividers to deallocate said resource unit(s), wherein said comparison means is connected with said requesting means and said changing means.

17. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 15 wherein said arranging means forms a pair of linked pool strings, one of said linked strings substantially comprising said pool string and having a first plurality of identifiers and a second plurality of said first dividers, and the other of said linked strings comprising a like second plurality of first dividers interposed between a like second plurality of ersatz identifiers;

said comparison means actions a request for an allocation of said resource units having a

pair of request criteria by truncating said linked pool strings in accordance with one of said request criteria to form a pair of equal length linked sub-pool strings, and by representing the other of said request criteria as a request string of said ersatz identifiers separated by said first dividers; and

said comparison means compares said request string having said ersatz identifiers with said sub-pool string having said ersatz identifiers, and where a match is detected causes said changing means to replace the corresponding ones of said first dividers in both said linked substrings with said second divider to allocate said resource units.

18. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein each of said leading and trailing identifiers is different from the other identifiers.

19. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein each of said leading and trailing identifiers is the same.

20. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein said resource units are selected from the ~~class~~ group consisting of resource units consisting of at least time periods available to book a room, time periods in a schedule, memory locations in a computer storage medium, and seats in an aircraft.

21. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein said resource units are selected from the ~~class~~ group consisting of resource units consisting of time periods available to

book a room, time periods in a schedule, memory locations in a computer storage medium, and seats in an aircraft.

22. (Currently amended) A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having a computer readable software program embodied therein, said computer readable software program containing instructions that when executed by a processor of a computer system implement a method, said method comprising the steps of: for allocating one or more resource units in a sequence of allocatable resource units, and adapted to be stored in a computer storage medium or transmitted electronically via a transmission medium, said computer program product comprising:

identifying ~~means to identify~~ each said resource unit with a leading and a trailing identifier separated by a first divider, whereby for a pair of adjacent resource units in said sequence the trailing identifier of the earlier of said adjacent resource units is the leading identifier of the later of said adjacent resource units;

arranging ~~means to arrange~~ said identifiers and dividers into a pool string corresponding to said sequence of resource units; and

changing ~~means to change~~ one or more of said first dividers into corresponding second dividers to thereby identify each allocated resource unit by said leading and trailing identifiers separated by said second divider.

23. (Currently amended) The product as claimed in claim 22 wherein said identifying ~~means identifies~~ comprises identifying allocated successive resource units in said sequence by all the identifiers of said successive resource units being separated by said second identifiers.

24. (Currently amended) The product as claimed in claim 22 said method further comprising:

~~requesting means which represents~~

representing a request for an allocation of one or more resource units as a request string of identifiers, each leading and trailing identifier being separated by one of said first dividers; and

~~comparison means connected with said requesting means and said changing means to~~
~~compare~~ comparing said request string with said pool string, and where a match is detected
~~causing said changing means to replace~~ replacing the corresponding ones of said first dividers
with said second dividers to allocate said resource unit(s).

25. (Currently amended) The product as claimed in claim 22 said method further comprising:

~~requesting means which represents~~

representing a request for a deallocation of one or more resource units as a request string of identifiers, each leading and trailing identifier being separated by one of said second dividers;
and

~~comparison means connected with said requesting means and said changing means to~~
~~compare~~ comparing said request string with said pool string, and where a match is detected
~~causing said changing means to replace~~ replacing the corresponding ones of said second dividers
with said first dividers to deallocate said resource unit(s).

26. (Currently amended) The product as claimed in claim 24 wherein said arranging ~~means forms~~

comprises forming a pair of linked pool strings, one of said linked strings substantially
comprising said pool string and having a first plurality of identifiers and a second plurality of
said first dividers, and the other of said linked strings comprising a like second plurality of first

dividers interposed between a like second plurality of ersatz identifiers; and

said ~~comparison means~~ comparing actions a request for an allocation of said resource units having a pair of request criteria by truncating said linked pool strings in accordance with one of said request criteria to form a pair of equal length linked sub-pool strings, and by representing the other of said request criteria as a request string of said ersatz identifiers separated by said first dividers; and compares said request string having said ersatz identifiers with said sub-pool string having said ersatz identifiers, and where a match is detected causes said changing ~~means~~ to replace the corresponding ones of said first dividers in both said linked substrings with said second divider to allocate said resource units.

27. (Original) The product as claimed in claim 22 wherein each of said leading and trailing identifiers is different from the other identifiers.

28. (Original) The product as claimed in claim 22 wherein each of said leading and trailing identifiers is the same.

29. (Currently amended) The product as claimed in claim 22 wherein said resource units are selected from the ~~class~~ group consisting of resource units consisting of at least time periods available to book a room, time periods in a schedule, memory locations in a computer storage medium, and seats in an aircraft.

30. (Currently amended) The product as claimed in claim 22 wherein said resource units are

selected from the ~~class~~ group consisting of resource units consisting of time periods available to book a room, time periods in a schedule, memory locations in a computer storage medium, and seats in an aircraft.

31-35. (Canceled)